IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	T. Regan et al.	Attorney Docket No.:	MSFT121084
Application No.:	10/600,399	Art Unit: 2174 / Confirmation No:	7006
Filed:	June 20, 2003	Examiner:	R.F. Pitaro
Title:	INTELLIGENT WINDOWS MOVEMENT AND RESIZING		

RESPONSE

Seattle, Washington 98101

June 8, 2007

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Applicants respectfully request that the above identified application be re-examined.

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed April 19, 2007 ("Office Action").

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-8 and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,808,610 ("Benson et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,124,360 ("Drenttel et al."). Claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benson et al. and Drenttel et al., in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,480,813 ("Bloomquist et al."). Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benson et al. and Drenttel et al. and Bloomquist et al., in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,920,315 ("Santos-Gomez").

Rejection of Claims 1-8 and 15-20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Based on Benson et al. in View of Drenttel et al.

Remarks in the Office Action accompanying the rejection of independent Claim 1 state that:

> Benson fails to distinctly point out the collinear lines being the edges of the first graphical component. However, Drenttel teaches a collinear line determined by the edges of the first graphical component (column 7,

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> lines 4-28, Fig. 10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Drenttel with the method of Benson. Motivation to do so would have been to provide a tight space saving grid to maximize the screen.

Applicants respectfully agree that Benson et al. fails to distinctly point out the collinear lines being the edges of the first graphical component. Applicants respectfully disagree that there is motivation to combine Benson et al. and Drenttel et al. Benson et al., Col. 4, lines 13-16, reads as follows:

> The **docking wedges** 310, 312 **are thin buttons that provide a visual reminder that the panels are docked and are used to undock the panels as described below.** (Emphasis added.)

In addition, Benson et al., Col. 4, lines 53-56, reads as follows:

> **To undock a panel, the user can either click on a docking wedge** or hold down a modifier key while dragging a panel's header bar. If the user selects a docking wedge, then that wedge will disappear and the panel docked via that wedge will become undocked. (Emphasis added.)

It is clear from Benson et al. that docking wedges "are thin buttons that provide a visual reminder that the panels are docked and are used to undock the panels" and that users undock panels by clicking docking wedges. In order for a docking wedge to be able to be viewed by a user and clicked by a user, a docking wedge must have a perceptible width, e.g., at least a few pixels wide. Because a docking wedge occupies the space between two panels and must have perceptible width, a docking wedge does not allow the panels to touch each other. Hence, there is simply no basis for concluding that the motivation to combine Benson et al. and Drenttel et al. is to provide a "tight space saving grid." A tight space saving grid is clearly contrary to the teachings of Benson et al. Thus, it would not have been obvious to an artisan at the time of invention to combine the teaching of Drenttel et al. with the method of Benson et al. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 based on the teachings of Benson et al. and Drenttel et al. is clearly in error and that independent Claim 1 is allowable.

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Applicants further submit that Claims 1-15 that depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1 are allowable for at least the reasons that Claim 1 is allowable. Applicants also further submit that independent Claims 16 and 17, which are directed to performing the method of Claims 1-15, are allowable for at least the reasons that Claim 1 is allowable. Applicants also further submit that independent Claim 18, which is directed to a graphical user interface that implements a method similar to the method of Claim 1, is allowable for the same reasons that Claim 1 is allowable. Applicants also further submit that dependent Claims 19 and 20, which depend directly from Claim 18, are allowable for at least the reasons that Claim 18 is allowable.

Rejection of Claims 9-12 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Based on Benson et al. and Drenttel et al. in Further View of Bloomquist et al.

Remarks in the Office Action accompanying the rejection of dependent Claim 9 state that:

> Benson-Drenttel does not teach expressly the method wherein said gradated predetermined distance varies according to the proximity of said first graphical component to said second graphical component. Bloomquist teaches a method wherein a gradated predetermined distance varies according to the proximity of said first graphical component to said second graphical component (fig. 8; and column 6, lines 6-14).

Applicants respectfully agree that "Benson-Drenttel does not teach expressly the method wherein said gradated predetermined distance varies according to the proximity of said first graphical component to said second graphical component." Applicants respectfully disagree that Bloomquist et al. teaches or suggests the method claimed in Claim 9. Claim 9 and Claim 8, from which Claim 9 depends, read as follows:

> 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said **predetermined distance is gradated along said collinear line**. (Emphasis added.)
>
> 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said gradated predetermined distance varies according to the proximity of said first graphical component to said second graphical component.

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Lines 6-14 in Col. 6 of Bloomquist et al. read as follows:

> FIG. 8 shows an alternative embodiment of the present invention in which **the snap distance to each line D 308A and D2 708A can vary with the distance from the temporary points**. This implementation is useful in situations where the temporary points positioned at 302 and 702 are close together (for example, at a distance less than the snap distances D 308A and D2 708A), because it prevents the display of a multiplicity of alignment lines. If necessary, logic can be implemented to determine the separation of the temporary points.

In the method of Claims 8 and 9, the predetermined distance is gradated along a collinear line. Collinear is defined as lying on the same straight line, passing through the same straight line or containing a common line, whereas in Bloomquist et al. the snap distance is between a line and a temporary point. While a perpendicular line can be drawn from a line to a point, the perpendicular line does not lie on an existing common line. Hence, it would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide the snapping functionality of Bloomquist within Benson-Drenttel's method to produce the gradated predetermined distance that varies according to the proximity of a first graphical component to a second graphical component as claimed in Claim 9. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that in addition to Claim 9 being allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 8, the claims from which Claim 9 depends, Claim 9 is also allowable for this additional reason. Applicants further submit that Claims 10 and 11, which depend directly from Claim 9, are allowable for at least the reasons that Claim 9 is allowable. Applicants also further submit that Claim 12, which claims a predetermined distance that varies according to a predefined relationship between a first graphical component and a second graphical component, as claimed in Claim 9, is at least allowable for the same reasons Claim 9 is allowable.

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Rejection of Claims 13 and 14 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Based on Benson et al. and Drenttel et al. and Bloomquist et al. in Further View of Santos-Gomez

Remarks in the Office Action accompanying the rejection of dependent Claims 13 and 14 state that:

> Santos-Gomez teaches a method wherein predetermined relationship is determined from the type of graphical components forming said first and second graphical components (Col. 4, lines 15-27).

Applicants respectfully disagree. Lines 15-27 of Col. 4 in Santos-Gomez recite:

> By replacing the contents of a pane with the contents associated with the selected icon, the proliferation of windows may be reduced. A user will not be presented with an ever increasing number of windows of old and less relevant information but will have the most relevant information displayed most prominently in the workspace. Furthermore, with the inclusion of a view stack the user may readily move between contents of a pane to access the underlying information. These aspects of the present invention may substantially reduce window proliferation and allow a user to focus on the most relevant information without rearranging a desktop and without having to close out of date windows.

Applicants respectfully submit that the method taught by Santos-Gomez has to do with reducing the proliferation of windows by replacing the contents of panes with the contents associated with selected icons. It is clear that Santos-Gomez teaches replacing the contents of a pane with the contents associated with an icon and the use of a view stack, i.e., a stack of panes. Santos-Gomez does not teach or even remotely suggest or imply a predetermined relationship between two graphical components or the alignment of graphical components as claimed in independent Claim 1 from which Claim 13 and 14 indirectly depend. Hence, it would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide the functionality of Santos-Gomez. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 13 and 14 are allowable for reasons in addition to the reasons why Claim 1 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the applicants' representative at the number set forth below to resolve any issues that may facilitate prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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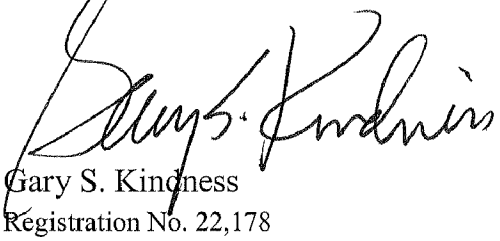

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